I am extremely concerned about the proposed settlement
with Microsoft.

Microsoft for a long time has been able to use their
monopoly power to keep other products off the market.
This has allowed them to overcharge for both their
operating system and office suite.

The settlement does nothing to punish this past behavior.
Itstead it rewards Microsoft by letting it keep all the money
it stole from consumers through overchargin.

The other problem is that it does not prohibit future
problems. There is nothing to prevent Microsoft from using
its monopoly in operating systems from using that monoply
to leverage itself into the E-commerce market.   Microsoft
has long wanted to place a "Microsoft Tax" on every web
based transaction and this settlement will let them go
ahead. If the settlement stands I can easily see a day
when Microsoft forces everyone who uses Windows to use
Microsoft Passport (or some other Microsoft technology)
when buying on line.

Finally, the settlement forces Microsoft to expose it's API's
so that other people can write applications for the Microsoft
Operating system.   However, Microsoft has added a clause that
excludes Open Source Projects. Since these are the principal
compentation for Microsoft's products I find that provision
extremely troubling.

What Microsoft has done is said it will let anyone who wants
to get a copy of the API's except for anyone who might be
really able to use it.   Is that a settlement or a gift
to Microsoft?

In short this settlement gives almost everything to Microsoft
that Microsoft wanted.   What we need is a settlement that
contains real penalitites and provides for solutions that foster
real compentation.

Steve Oualline
11259 Paul Barwick Ct.
San Diego, CA 92126

858-695-2637